Demand and consumption of steel in Gujarat

*453. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVE-SHANKER DAVE:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the demand and consumption positon of steel in the State of Gujarat at present, district-wise;

(b) what steps have been taken to bridge the gap between the demand and short supply of steel; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Estimate of demands are made on all India basis and not individual States/Districts. The total despatches of steel from main producers to the State of Gujarat during 1992-93 was about 5.06 lakh tonnes. No data on district-wise consumption is maintained.

(b) and (c) At present there is no shortage of most items of steel. To supplement domestic availablity both in terms of quantity and quality, import of all items of steel is freely allowed. Import duty on a numbers of items like semis, Hot Rolled Coils, Cold Rolled Coils, Tin Mill Black Plate has been reduced in the recent budget Government has also taken various steps to encourage indigenous production of steel. These include:

(i) Modernisation and expansion of public sector integrated steel Plants;

(ii) Delicensing and de-regulation of the iron and steel industry to encourage private sector investment;

(iii) Reduction of customs duty on project imports and reduction of minimum interest rate on commercial advances to improve the viability of industrial projects including iron and steel projects;

(iv) Reduction of customs duty on certain raw materials such as refractories and ferro alloys to reduce production cost of steel.

Convention on rights of children to adequate nutrition

*454. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are a party to the recent convention on rights of children to adequate nutrition;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to work out a plan of action in consultation with various Governments and non-Government agencies i the country in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) There is no "Convention on Rights of Children to adequate nutrition". However, there is a "Convention on the Rights of the Child", which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 November, 1989. India has acceded to this Convention.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has worked out a Plan of Action in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments and non-Governmental agencies. One of the major goals of this Plan of Action is reduction in severe and moderate malnutrition among children under-5 by half between 1990 and the year 2000 AD. In order to provide adequate nutrition to children the Plan envisages expansion of nutritional intervention net through ICDS so as to cover all vulnerable children in the age group